



16138 U.S. PTO

Atty Docket No. SBS001/150068

22390 U.S. PTO
10/821085



Preliminary Classification:
Proposed Class:
Subclass:

NOTE: "All applicants are requested to include a preliminary classification on newly filed patent applications. The preliminary classification, preferably class and subclass designations, should be identified in the upper right-hand corner of the letter of transmittal accompanying the application papers, for example 'Proposed Class 2, subclass 129-' " MPEP § 601, 7th ed.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): **Cindy Howard**
Thomas Howard
James Carpenter

WARNING: 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(a)(1) points out:

"(a) A patent is applied for in the name or names of the actual inventor or inventors

"(1) The inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63, except as provided for in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(d). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the inventorship is that inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1.53(b), unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17C) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors."

For (title): **DATABASE AND SOFTWARE CONVERSION SYSTEM AND METHOD**

EXPRESS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10*
(Express Mail label number is mandatory.)
(Express Mail certification is optional.)

I hereby certify that this New Application Transmittal and the documents referred to as enclosed therein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on this date in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mailing Label Number EL974223818 US, addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: 4-8-04

Signature: Ann Razo

Ann Razo

WARNING: Certificate of mailing (first class) or facsimile transmission procedures of 37 C.F.R. 1.8 cannot be used to obtain a date of mailing or transmission for this correspondence.

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing- 37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition. " Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

1. Type of Application

This new application is for a(n)

(check one applicable item below)

- ☒ Original (non provisional)
☐ Design
☐ Plant

WARNING: Do not use this transmittal for a completion in the U.S. of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. § 371(c)(4), unless the International Application is being filed as a divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application.

WARNING: Do not use this transmittal for the filing of a provisional application.

NOTE: If one of the following 3 items apply, then complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF A PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED and a NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THE FILING OF THIS CONTINUATION APPLICATION.

- ☐ Divisional.
☐ Continuation.
☐ Continuation-in-part (C-I-P-)

2. Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) (35 U.S.C. §§ 119(e), 120, or 121)

NOTE: "A nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional applications or international applications designating the United States of America. In order for an application to claim the benefit of a prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America, each prior-filed application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later-filed application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later-filed application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. In addition, each prior-filed application must be:

- (i) An international application entitled to a filing date in accordance with PCT Article 11 and designating the United States of America; or
- (ii) Complete as set forth in § 1.51(b), or
- (iii) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) or § 1.53(d) and include the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16; or
- (iv) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) and have paid therein the processing and retention fee set forth in § 1.21(f) within the time period set forth in § 1.53(f).

37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1).

WARNING: If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120, 121 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. § 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119, 365(a) or 365(b)) For a c-i-p application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.

WARNING: 37 C.F.R. § 1- 78(a)(2) deals with the time in which the claim for the benefit of an earlier filing date must be made and states:

"(2)(i) Except for a continued prosecution application filed under § 1.53(d), any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional applications or international applications designating the United States at America must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 1.14).

(ii) This reference must be submitted during the pendency of the later-filed application. If the later-filed application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the later-filed application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed application. If the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application: which entered the national stage from an international application after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the date an which the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371 (b) or (f) in the later-filed international application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed application. These time periods are not extendable. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the failure to timely submit the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120

and paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section is considered a waiver of any benefit under 35 U.S.C. 126, 121, or 365(c) to such prior-filed application. The time periods in this paragraph do not apply if the later-filed application is:

- (A) An application for a design patent;
- (B) An application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 (a) before November 29, 2000; or
- (C) A nonprovisional application which entered the national stage after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371 from an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. 363 before November 29, 2000.

(iii) If the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application, the reference required by this paragraph must be included in an application data sheet (§ 1.76), or the specification must contain or be amended to contain such reference in the first sentence following the title.

(iv) The request for a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) is the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 to the prior-filed application. The identification of an application by application number under this section is the identification of every application assigned that application number necessary for a specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 to every such application assigned that application number."

NOTE: If the new application being transmitted is a divisional, continuation or a continuation-in-part of a parent case, or where the parent case is an International Application which designated the U.S., or benefit of a prior provisional application is claimed, then check the following item and complete and attach ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

- ☒ The new application being transmitted claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s). Enclosed are ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

3. Papers Enclosed

- A. Required for filing date under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(0) (Regular) or 37 C.F.R. § 1.153 (Design) Application

<u>22</u>	Pages of specification
<u>6</u>	Pages of claims
<u>12</u>	Sheets of drawing

WARNING: DO NOT submit original drawings. A high quality copy of the drawings should be supplied when filing a patent application. The drawings that are submitted to the Office must be on strong, white, smooth, and non-shiny paper and meet the standards according to § 1.84. If corrections to the drawings are necessary, they should be made to the original drawing and a high-quality copy of the corrected original drawing then submitted to the Office. Only one copy is required or desired. For comments on proposed then-new 37 C.F.R. § 1.84, see Notice of March 9, 1988 (1990 O.G. 57-62).

NOTE: "Identification of drawings. Identifying indicia, if provided, should include the title of the invention, inventor's name and application number, or docket number (if any) if an application number has not been assigned to the application. If this information is provided, it must be placed on the front of each sheet and centered within the top margin."

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☐ The enclosed drawing(s) are photograph(s).

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.84

"(b) Photographs.

"(1) Black and white. Photographs, including photocopies of photographs, are not ordinarily permitted in utility and design patent applications. The Office will accept photographs in utility and design patent applications, however, if photographs are the only practicable medium for illustrating the claimed invention. For example, photographs or photomicrographs of electrophoresis gels, blots (e.g., immunological, western, Southern, and northern), auto radiographs, cell cultures (stained and unstained), histological tissue cross sections (stained and unstained), animals, plants, in vivo imaging, thin layer chromatography plates, crystalline structures, and, in a design patent application, ornamental effects, are acceptable. If the subject matter of the application admits of illustration by a drawing, the examiner may require a drawing in place of the photograph. The photographs must be of sufficient quality so that all details in the photographs are reproducible in the printed patent.

"(2) Color photographs. Color photographs will be accepted in utility and design patent applications if the conditions for accepting color drawings and black and white photographs have been satisfied. See paragraphs (a)(2) and (b)(1) of this section."

- ☐ The enclosed drawing(s) are in color. Three (3) sets of color drawings and a "PETITION TO ACCEPT COLOR DRAWINGS" are attached. 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.84(a)(2) and 1.84(b).

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.84(a)

"(2) Color. On rare occasions, color drawings may be necessary as the only practical medium by which to disclose the subject matter sought to be patented in a utility or design patent application or the subject matter of a statutory invention registration. The color drawings must be of sufficient quality such that all details in the drawings are reproducible in black and white in the printed patent. Color drawings are not permitted in international applications (see PCT Rule 11.13), or in an application, or copy thereof, submitted under the Office electronic filing system. The Office will accept color drawings in utility or design patent applications and statutory invention registrations only after granting a petition filed under this paragraph explaining why the color drawings are necessary. Any such petition must include the following:

- (i) The fee set forth in § 1.17(h);
- (ii) Three (3) sets of color drawings;
- (iii) A black and white photocopy that accurately depicts, to the extent possible, the subject matter shown in the color drawing; and
- (iv) An amendment to the specification to insert (unless the specification contains or has been previously amended to contain) the following language as the first paragraph of the brief description of the drawings:

The patent or application file contains at least one drawing executed in color. Copies of this patent or patent application publication with color drawing(s) will be provided by the Office upon request and payment of the necessary fee."

- ☒ formal
☐ informal

B. Other Papers Enclosed

 3 Pages of declaration and power of attorney
 1 Pages of abstract
 Other

4. Additional papers enclosed

- ☐ Amendment to claims
- ☐ Cancel in this application claims _____ before calculating the filing fee.
(At least one original dependent claim must be retained for filing purposes.)
- ☐ Add the claims shown on the attached amendment. (Claims have been numbered consecutively following the highest numbered original claims.)
- ☐ Preliminary amendment
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. §1.98)

NOTE 37 C.F.R. § -1.97 (b) An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the office if filed by the applicant within any one of the following time periods:

- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(4);
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application;
- (3) Before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or

WARNING: In order to ensure consideration of information previously submitted but which has not been considered in the parent application, an applicant must resubmit the information, complying with 37 C.F.R. § 7.97 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.98, in the continuing application filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b). See § 609B(3). M.P.E.P., 7th Edition, Rev. I

- ☒ Form PTO-1449 (PTO/SB/08A and 08B)
- ☐ Citations
- ☐ Declaration of Biological Deposit
- ☐ Submission of "Sequence Listing," computer readable copy and/or amendment pertaining thereto for biotechnology invention containing nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence.

- ☐ Authorization of Attorney(s) to Accept and Follow Instructions from Representative
- ☐ Special Comments
- ☐ Other

5. Declaration or oath (including power of attorney)

NOTE: A newly executed declaration is not required in a continuation or divisional application provided that the prior nonprovisional application contained a declaration as required, the application being filed is by all or fewer than all the inventors named in the prior application, there is no new matter in the application being filed, and a copy of the executed declaration filed in the prior application (showing the signature or an indication thereon that it was signed) is submitted. The copy must be accompanied by a statement requesting deletion of the names of person(s) who are not inventors of the application being filed. If the declaration in the prior application was filed under § 1.47, then a copy of that declaration must be filed accompanied by a copy of the decision granting § 1.47 status or, if a nonsigning person under § 1.47 has subsequently joined in a prior application, then a copy of the subsequently executed declaration must be filed. See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(1)–(3).

NOTE: A declaration filed to complete an application must be executed, identify the specification to which it is directed, identify each inventor by full name including family name and at least one given name, without abbreviation together with any other given name or initial, and the residence, post office address and country or citizenship of each inventor, and state whether the inventor is a sole or joint inventor. 37 C.F.R. § 7-63(a)(7)-(4).

NOTE: "The in inventorship of a nonprovisional application is that in inventorship set forth in the oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.62, except as provided for in § 1.53(d)(4) and § 1.63(d). If an oath or declaration as prescribed by § 1.63 is not filed during the pendency of a nonprovisional application, the in inventorship is that in inventorship set forth in the application papers filed pursuant to § 1.53(b), unless a petition under this paragraph accompanied by the fee set forth in § 1.17(1) is filed supplying or changing the name or names of the inventor or inventors." 37 C.F.R. § 1.41 (a)(1).

- ☒ Enclosed
Executed by

(check all applicable boxes)

- ☒ inventor(s).
- ☐ legal representative of inventor(s). 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.42 or 1.43.
- ☐ joint inventor or person showing a proprietary interest on behalf of inventor who refused to sign or cannot be reached.
- ☐ This is the petition required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 and the statement required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.47 is also attached. See item 13 below for fee:
- ☐ Not Enclosed.

NOTE: Where the filing is a completion in the U.S. of an International Application or where the completion of the U.S. application contains subject matter in addition to the International Application, the application may be treated as a continuation or continuation-in-part, as the case may be, utilizing ADDED PAGE FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION CLAIMED:

- ☐ Application is made by a person authorized under 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(c) on behalf of all the above named inventor(s).

(The declaration or oath, along with the surcharge required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e) can be filed subsequently):

- ☐ Showing that the filing is authorized:
(not required unless called into question. 37 C.F.R. § 1.41(d))

6. Inventorship Statement

WARNING: If the named inventors are each not the inventors of all the claims an explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made, should be submitted:

The inventorship for all the claims in this application are:

- ☒ The same

or

- ☐ Not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made,
- ☐ is submitted.
- ☐ will be submitted.

7. Language

NOTE: An application including a signed oath or declaration may be filed in a language other than English. An English translation of the non-English language application and the processing fee of \$130.00 required by 37 C.F.R. § 1:17(k) is required to be filed with the application, or within such time as may be set by the Office: 37 C.F.R. § 1:52(d).

- ☒ English
- ☐ Non-English
- ☐ The attached translation is a verified translation. 37 CFR 1.52(d).

8. Assignment

- ☒ An assignment of the invention to Sophisticated Business Systems, Inc.
- ☒ is attached. A separate ☐ "COVER SHEET FOR ASSIGNMENT (DOCUMENT) ACCOMPANYING NEW PATENT APPLICATION" or ☒ FORM PTO 1595 is also attached.
- ☐ will follow.

NOTE: "it an assignment is submitted with anew application, send two separate letters-one for the application and one for the assignment." Notice of May 4, 1990 (1114 O.G. 77-78).

WARNING: A newly executed "CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b)" must be filed when a continuation-in-part application is filed by an assignee. Notice of April 30, 1993, 1150 O.G. 62-64.

9. Publication

- ☒ It is requested that this application not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). This is to certify that the invention disclosed in this application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.213(a) states: "If the invention disclosed in an application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications eighteen months after filing, the application will not be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b) and § 1.211 provided:

- (1) A request (nonpublication request) is submitted with the application upon filing;*
- (2) The request states in a conspicuous manner that the application is not to be published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b);*
- (3) The request contains a certification that the invention disclosed in the application has not been and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication at eighteen months after filing; and*
- (4) The request is signed in compliance with § 1.33(b).*

NOTE: The Office recommends that when a nonpublication request is filed, the nonpublication request be itemized on a post card receipt. See "Helpful Hints Regarding Publication of Patent Applications"—[1249 OG 83-84, August 21, 2001].

10. Certified Copy

Certified copy(ies) of application(s)

country

appl. no.

filed

from which priority is claimed

- ☐ is (are) attached.
☐ will follow.

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.55 Claim for foreign priority. "(a)***

(1)(i) In an original application filed under 35 U.S.C. 117(a), the claim for priority must be presented during the pendency of the application, and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. This time period is not extendable. The claim must identify the foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country (or intellectual property authority), day, month, and year of its filing. The time periods in this paragraph do not apply in an application under 35 U.S.C. 111 (a) if the application is:

(A) A design application; or

(B) An application filed before November 29, 2000.

(c) Unless such claim is accepted in accordance with the provisions of this paragraph, any claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(0)-(d) or 365(a) not presented within the time period provided by paragraph (a) of this section is considered to have been waived. If a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(0)-(d) or 365(0) is presented after the time period provided by paragraph (a) of this section, the claim may be accepted if the claim identifying the prior foreign application by specifying its application number, country (or intellectual property authority), and the day, month, and year of its filing was unintentionally delayed. A petition to accept a delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(a) must be accompanied by:

- (1) The claim under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or 365(a) and this section to the prior foreign application, unless previously submitted,
(2) The surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

NOTE:

(3) A statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under paragraph (a)(1) of this section and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional."

37 C. F. R. § 1.63 Oath or declaration.

"(a) An oath or declaration filed under § 1.51(b)(2) as a part of a nonprovisional application must:

(c) Unless such information is supplied on an application data sheet in accordance with § 7.75, the oath or declaration must also identify:

- (2) Any foreign application for patent (or inventor's certificate) for which a claim for priority is made pursuant to § 1.55, and any foreign application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country, day, month, and year of its filing."

The foreign application forming the basis for the claim for priority must be referred to in the oath or declaration. 37 C.F.R. § 1.55(a) and 1.63.

NOTE: This item is for any foreign priority for which the application being filed directly relates. If any parent U.S. application or In International Application from which this application claims benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 120 is itself entitled to priority from a prior foreign application, then complete item 18 on the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED.

11. Fee Calculation (37 CFR 1.16)

A. ☒ Regular Application

CLAIMS AS FILED					
	Number Filed	Number Extra		Rate	Basic Fee
					\$385.00
Total Claims	27	7	x	18/9	\$63.00
Independent Claims	3	0	x	86/43	\$0
Multiple Dependent Claim(s), if any				290/145	\$0
TOTAL FILING FEE: \$448.00					

- ☐ Amendment canceling extra claims enclosed.
☐ Amendment deleting multiple-dependencies enclosed.
☐ Fee for extra claims is not being paid at this time.

NOTE: If the fees for extra claims are not paid on filing they must be paid or the claims cancelled by amendment, prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the Patent and Trademark Office in any notice of fee deficiency. 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d).

Filing Fee Calculation \$ 448.00

B. ☐ Design application

(\$340.00 or \$170.00--37 CFR 1.16(f))

Filing Fee Calculation \$ _____

C. ☐ Plant Application

(\$530.00 or \$265.00--37 CFR 1.16(g))

Filing Fee Calculation \$ _____

12. Assertion of Small Entity Status

☒ Applicant hereby asserts status as a small entity under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.27(c) deals with the assertion of small entity status, whether by a written specific declaration thereof or by payment as a small entity of the basic filing fee or the fee for the entry into the national phase and states:

"(c) Assertion of small entity status. Any party (person, small business concern or nonprofit organization) should make a determination, pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section, of entitlement to be accorded small entity status based on the definitions set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, and must, in order to establish small entity status for the purpose of paying small entity fees, actually make an assertion of entitlement to small entity status, in the manner set forth in paragraphs (c)(1) or (c)(3) of this section, in the application or patent in which such small entity fees are to be paid.

(1) Assertion by writing. Small entity status may be established by a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status. A written assertion must:

- (i) Be clearly identifiable,
- (ii) Be signed (see paragraph (c)(2) of this section), and
- (iii) Convey the concept of entitlement to small entity status, such as by stating that

applicant is a small entity, or that small entity status is entitled to be asserted for the application or patent. While no specific words or wording are required to assert small entity status, the intent to assert small entity status must be clearly indicated in order to comply with the assertion requirement.

(2) Parties who can sign and file the written assertion. The written assertion can be signed by:

- (i) One of the parties identified in § 1.33(b) (e.g., an attorney or agent registered with the Office), § 3.73(b) of this chapter notwithstanding, who can also file the written assertion;
- (ii) At least one of the individuals identified as an inventor (even though a § 1.63 executed oath or declaration has not been submitted), notwithstanding § 1.33(b)(4), who can also file the written assertion pursuant to the exception under § 1.33(b) of this part; or
- (iii) An assignee of an undivided part interest, notwithstanding §§ 1.33(b)(3) and 3.73(b) of this chapter, but the partial assignee cannot file the assertion without resort to a party identified under § 1.33(b) of this part.

(3) Assertion by payment of the small entity basic filing or basic national fee. The payment, by any party, of the exact amount of one of the small entity basic filing fees set forth in §§ 1.76(a), (f) (g), (h), or (k), or one of the small entity basic national fees set forth in §§ 1.482(a)(1), (a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4), or (a)(5), will be treated as a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status even if the type of basic filing or basic national fee is inadvertently selected in error.

(i) If the Office accords small entity status based on payment of a small entity basic filing or basic national fee under paragraph (c)(3) of this section that is not applicable to that application, any balance of the small entity fee that is applicable to that application will be due along with the appropriate surcharge set forth in § 1.16(e), or § 1.16(f).

(ii) The payment of any small entity fee other than those set forth in paragraph (c)(3) of this section (whether in the exact fee amount or not) will not be treated as a written assertion of entitlement to small entity status and will not be sufficient to establish small entity status in an application or a patent."

WARNING: 37 C.F.R. § 1.27(c)(4)' "Assertion required in related, continuing, and reissue applications. Status as a small entity must be specifically established by an assertion in each related, continuing and reissue application in which status is appropriate and desired. Status as a small entity in one application or patent does not affect the status of any other application or patent, regardless of the relationship of the applications or patents. The refiling of an application under § 1.53 as a continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part application (including a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d)), or the filing of a reissue application, requires a new assertion as to continued entitlement to small entity status for the continuing or reissue application."

WARNING: "Small entity status must not be established when the person or persons signing the . . . statement can unequivocally make the required self-certification." M.P.E.P. § 509.03 (emphasis added).

(complete the following, if applicable)

- ☒ Status as a small entity was asserted in the prior application 60/461,509 filed on 04/09/2003, from which benefit is being claimed for this application under:

35 U.S.C. § ☒ 119(e)
☐ 120
☐ 121
☐ 365(c)

and which status as a small entity is still proper and asserted for this application.

- ☐ A copy of the written assertion of small entity filed in the prior application is included.

NOTE: A refund based on establishment of small entity status, of a portion of fees timely paid in full prior to establishing status as a small entity may only be obtained if an assertion under § 7.27(c) and a request for a refund of the excess amount are filed within three months of the date of the timely payment of the full fee. The three-month time period is not extendable under § 7.136. 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a).

13. Request for International-Type Search (37 CFR 1.104(d))

(complete, if applicable)

- ☐ Please prepare an international-type search report for this application at the time when national examination on the merits takes place.

14. Fee Payment Being Made at This Time

- ☐ Not Enclosed
☐ No filing fee is to be paid at this time.
(This and the surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.16(e) can be paid subsequently.)
☒ Enclosed
☒ Basic filing fee \$ 448.00
☒ Recording Assignment (\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(h)) \$ 40.00
☐ Petition fee for filing by other than all the inventors or person on behalf of the inventor where inventor refused to sign or cannot be reached.
(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.47 and 1.17(h)) \$ _____
☐ For processing an application with a specification in a non-English language.
(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.52(d) and 1.17(k)) \$ _____
☐ Processing and retention fee.
(\$130.00; 37 CFR 1.53(d) and 1.21(l)) \$ _____
☐ Fee for international-type search report (\$40.00; 37 CFR 1.21(e)) \$ _____

Total fees enclosed \$ 488.00

15. Method of Payment of Fees

- ☒ Attached is a Check in the amount of \$ 488.00.
- ☐ Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$ _____ to
- ☐ To Deposit Account 50-0897 (SBS001/150068)
- ☐ To Credit card as shown on the attached credit card information authorization form PTO-2038.

WARNING: Credit card information should not be included on this form as it may become public.

- ☒ Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0897 (SBS001/150068).

A duplicate of this paper is attached.

16. Authorization to Charge Additional Fees

WARNING: If no fees are to be paid on filing, the following items should not be completed.

WARNING: Accurately count claims, especially multiple dependent claims, to avoid unexpected high charges, if extra claim charges are authorized.

WARNING: Even though small entity status is accorded where the wrong type of small entity basic filing fee or basic national fee is selected but the exact amount of the fee is paid, applicant still needs to pay the correct small entity amount for the basic filing or basic national fee where selection of the wrong type of fee results in a deficiency. While an accompanying general authorization to charge any additional fees suffices to pay the balance due of the proper small entity basic filing or basic national fee, specific authorizations to charge fees under § 1.17 or extension of time fees do not suffice to pay any balance due of the proper small entity basic filing or basic national fee because they do not actually authorize payment of small entity amounts. Changes To Implement the Patent Business Goals; Final Rule [Fed. Reg.: September 8, 2000, pages 54603-54683, at 54611; OG: October 3, 2000, pages 14-391.

- ☒ The Office is hereby authorized to charge, in the manner shown above, the following additional fees that may be required by this paper and during the entire pendency of this application.
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a), (f) or (g) (filing fees)
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b), (c) and (d) (presentation of extra claims)

NOTE: Because additional fees for excess or multiple dependent claims not paid on filing or on later presentation must only be paid or these claims cancelled by amendment prior to the expiration of the time period set for response by the PTO in any notice of fee deficiency (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(d)), it might be best not to authorize the PTO to charge additional claim fees, except possibly when dealing with amendments after final action.

- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.16(e) (surcharge for filing the basic filing fee and/or declaration on a date later than the filing date of the application)
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1)–(5) (extension fees pursuant to § 1.136(a)).
- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 (application processing fees)

NOTE: A written request may be submitted in an application that is an authorization to treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. An authorization to charge all required fees, fees under § 1.17, or all required extension of time fees will be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent or future reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission. Submission of the fee set forth in § 1.17(a) will also be treated as a constructive petition for an extension of time in any concurrent reply requiring a petition for an extension of time under this paragraph for its timely submission." 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

- ☒ 37 C.F.R. § 1.18 (issue fee at or before mailing of Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.311(b))

NOTE: Section 1.311 (b) provides that an authorization to charge the issue fee (§ 1.18) to a deposit account may be filed in an individual application only after the mailing of the notice of allowance. Accordingly, general authorizations to pay fees and specific authorizations to pay the issue fee that are filed prior to the mailing of a notice of allowance will generally not be treated as requesting payment of the issue fee and will not be given effect to act as a reply to the notice of allowance. Applicant, when paying the issue fee, should submit a new authorization to charge fees, such as by completing box 6b on the current PTOI -858

form. Where no reply to the notice of allowance is received, the application will stand abandoned notwithstanding the presence of general authorizations to pay fees or a specific authorization to pay the issue fee that were submitted prior to mailing of the notice of allowance. Where an attempt is made to pay the issue fee but an incorrect amount is submitted, § 1.311(b)(1) or where the Office's issue fee transmittal form (currently PTOL-85(B)) is completed by applicant and submitted, § 1.311(b)(2), in reply to a notice of allowance, an exception will be made. Such submissions will operate as a request to charge the issue fee to any deposit account identified in a previously filed (i.e., submitted prior to the mailing of the notice of allowance) authorization to charge fees, and will be allowed to act as payment of the correct issue fee. § 1.311(b). See also the change to § 1.26(b). Notice of September 8, 2000, Fed. Reg. 54603-54683, at 54646 and 54647.

NOTE 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b) requires "Notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status must be filed in the application . . . prior to paying, or at the time of paying, . . . the issue fee. . . ." From the wording of 37 C.F.R. § 1.28(b), (a) notification of change of status must be made even if the fee is paid as "other than a small entity" and (b) no notification is required if the change is to another small entity.

17. Instructions as to Overpayment

NOTE: "... Amounts of twenty-five dollars or less will not be returned unless specifically requested within a reasonable time, nor will the payer be notified of such amounts; amounts over twenty-five dollars may be returned by check or, if requested, by credit to a deposit account." 37 C.F.R. § 1.26(a).

- ☒ Credit Account No. 50-0897 (SBS001/150068)
☐ Refund

18. Incorporated Pages

- ☒ Incorporation by reference of added pages
(check the following item if the application in this transmittal claims the benefit of prior U.S. application(s) (including an international application entering the U.S. stage as a continuation, divisional or C-1-P application) and complete and attach the ADDED PAGES FOR NEW APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED)
- ☒ Plus Added Pages for New Application Transmittal Where Benefit of Prior U.S. Application(s) Claimed
Number of pages added 6
- ☒ Plus Added Pages for Papers Referred to in Item 4 Above Number of pages added
Number of pages added _____
- ☐ Plus added pages deleting names of inventors) named in prior application(s) who is/are no longer inventor(s) of the subject matter claimed in this application. Number of pages added
Number of pages added _____
- ☐ Plus "Assignment Cover Letter Accompanying New Application"
Number of pages added _____

☐ **Statement Where No Further Pages Added**

(if no further pages form a part of this Transmittal, then end this Transmittal with this page and check the following item)

☐ This transmittal ends with this page.

Date: April 8, 2004



Brett T. Cooke

Reg. No.: 55,836

Andrews Kurth LLP
600 Travis, Suite 4200
Houston, Texas 77002
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Fax. No.: (713) 238-7340
Customer No. 23,444

**ADDED PAGES FOR APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL WHERE BENEFIT OF
PRIOR U.S. APPLICATION(S) CLAIMED
(37 C.F.R. § 1.78)**

17. Relate Back

WARNING: *If an application claims the benefit of the filing date of an earlier filed application under 35 U.S.C. § 126, 121 or 365(c), the 20-year term of that application will be based upon the filing date of the earliest U.S. application that the application makes reference to under 35 U.S.C. § 120, 127 or 365(c). (35 U.S.C. § 154(a)(2) does not take into account, for the determination of the patent term, any application on which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119, 365(a) or 365(b).) For a c-i-p application, applicant should review whether any claim in the patent that will issue is supported by an earlier application and, if not, the applicant should consider canceling the reference to the earlier filed application. The term of a patent is not based on a claim-by-claim approach. See Notice of April 14, 1995, 60 Fed. Reg. 20,195, at 20,205.*

(complete the following, if applicable)

☒ Amend the specification by inserting, before the first line following the title, the following sentence:

A. 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(4) and (5):

"(4) A nonprovisional application, other than for a design patent, or an international application designating the United States of America may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior-filed provisional applications. In order for an application to claim the benefit of one or more prior-filed provisional applications, each prior-filed provisional application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later-filed application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later-filed application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. In addition, each prior-filed provisional application must be entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(c), and the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16(k) must be paid within the time period set forth in § 7.53(g).

"(5)(i) Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed provisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed provisional application, identifying it by the provisional application number (consisting of series code and serial number).

(ii) This reference must be submitted during the pendency of the later-filed application. If the later-filed application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. 171(a), this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the later-filed application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application. If the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application which entered the national stage from an international application after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the date on which the national stage commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371 (b) or (f) in the later-filed international application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application. These time periods are not extendable. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(6) of this section, the failure to timely submit the reference is considered a waiver of any benefit under 35 U.S.C. 719(e) to such prior-filed provisional application. The time periods in this paragraph do not apply if the later-filed application is:

(A) An application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 (a) before November 29, 2000, or

(B) A nonprovisional application which entered the national stage after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371 from an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. 363 before November 29, 2000.

(iii) If the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application, the reference required by this paragraph must be included in an application data sheet (§ 7.76), or the specification must contain or be amended to contain such reference in the first sentence following the title."

☒ "This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s).:

APPLICATION NO(S).: FILING DATE

60/461,509

04/09/2003

WARNING. 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(5)(iv): "(iv) If the prior-filed provisional application was filed in a language other than English and an English-language translation of the prior-filed provisional application and a statement that the translation is accurate were not previously filed in the prior-filed provisional application or the later-filed nonprovisional application, applicant will be notified and given a period of time within which to file an English-language translation of the non-English-language prior-filed provisional application and a statement that the translation is accurate. In a pending nonprovisional application, failure to timely reply to such a notice will result in abandonment of the application."

Language of Prior Filed Provisional Application

(Supply information for each provisional whose benefit is being claimed)

The above identified prior filed provisional application whose benefit is being claimed

- ☒ was filed in the English language
- ☐ was filed in a language other than English and an English translation along with a statement that the translation is accurate was filed in the provisional application
- ☐ was filed in a language other than English and an English translation along with a statement that the translation is accurate is filed herewith

B. 35 U.S.C. Sections 128, 121 and 365(c)

WARNING. The applicable provisions for the time and manner of claiming the benefit of a prior U.S. application filing date are set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.78(a)(1) and (2) as follows:

"(a)(1) A nonprovisional application or International application designating the United States of America may claim an invention disclosed in one or more prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional applications or international applications designating the United States of America. In order for an application to claim the benefit of a prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America, each prior-filed application must name as an inventor at least one inventor named in the later-filed application and disclose the named inventor's invention claimed in at least one claim of the later-filed application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112. In addition, each prior-filed application must be:

(i) An international application entitled to a filing date in accordance with PCT Article 11 and designating the United States of America; or

(i) Complete as set forth in § 1.51(b), or

(iii) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) or § 1.53(d) and include the basic filing fee set forth in § 1.16; or

(iv) Entitled to a filing date as set forth in § 1.53(b) and have paid therein the processing and retention fee set forth in § 1.21(1) within the time period set forth in § 1.53(f).

(2)(i) Except for a continued prosecution application filed under § 1.53(d), any nonprovisional application international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed co-pending nonprovisional applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate (see § 7.14),

(ii) This reference must be submitted during the pendency of the later-filed application. If the later-filed application is an application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the later-filed application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed application. If the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application which entered the national stage from an international application after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, this reference must also be submitted within the later of four months from the date on which the national stage

commenced under 35 U.S.C. 371(b) or (f) in the later-filed international application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior-filed application. These time periods are not extendable. Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the failure to timely submit the reference required by 35 U.S.C. 720 and paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section is considered a waiver of any benefit under 35 U.S.C. 120, 121, or 365(6) to such prior-filed application. The time periods in this paragraph do not apply if the later-filed application is:

(A) An application for a design patent;

(B) An application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111 (a) before November 29, 2004; or

(C) A nonprovisional application which entered the national stage after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371 from an international application filed under 35 U.S.C. 363 before November 29, 2000.

(iii) if the later-filed application is a nonprovisional application, the reference required by this paragraph must be included in an application data sheet (§ 1.76), or the specification must contain or be amended to contain such reference in the first sentence following the title.

(iv) The request for a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) is the specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 to the prior-filed application. The identification of an application by application number under this section is the identification of every application assigned that application number necessary for a specific reference required by 35 U.S.C. 120 to every such application assigned that application number."

- ☐ "This application is a
- ☐ continuation
 - ☐ continuation-in-part
 - ☐ divisional
- of co-pending application(s)
- ☐ application number _____ filed on ____"
 - ☐ International Application _____ filed on _____ and which designated the U.S."

NOTE: The proper reference to a prior filed PCT application that entered the U.S. national phase is the U. S. serial number and the filing date of the PCT application that designated the U.S.

NOTE: (1) Where the application being transmitted adds subject matter to the International Application, then the filing can be as a continuation-in-part or (2) if it is desired to do so for other reasons then the filing can be as a continuation.

- ☐ The nonprovisional application designated above, namely application filed , claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application(s) No(s):

APPLICATION NO(S): FILING DATE

C. Publication of International Application----Provisional Application

NOTE: 35 U.S.C. 154 Contents and term of patent; provisional rights.

(d)(4) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS

(A) EFFECTIVE DATE.-The right under paragraph (1) to obtain a reasonable royalty based upon the publication under the treaty defined in section 351(a) of an international application designating the United States shall commence on the date on which the Patent and Trademark Office receives a copy of the publication under the treaty of the international application, or, if the publication under the treaty of the international application is in a language other than English, on the date on which the Patent and Trademark Office receives a translation of the international application in the English language.

The international application corresponding to the instant application

- ☐ was
- ☐ was not

published under PCT Article 21(2) in the English language.

☐ An English translation of the international application is attached.

18. Relate Back-35 U.S.C. § 119 Priority Claim for Prior Application

NOTE 37 C.F.R. § 1.55 Claim for foreign priority.

"(a) An applicant in a nonprovisional application may claim the benefit of the filing date of one or more prior foreign applications under the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(a) through (d) and (f) 172, and 355(a) and (b).

(1)(i) In an original application filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a), the claim for priority must be presented during the pendency of the application, and within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. This time period is not extendable. The claim must identify the foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by specifying the application number, country (or intellectual property authority), day, month, and year of its filing. The time period in this paragraph does not apply to an application for a design patent.

(ii) In an application that entered the national stage from an international application after compliance with 35 U.S.C. 371, the claim for priority must be made during the pendency of the application and within the time limit set forth in the PCT and the Regulations under the PCT.'

(2) The claim for priority and the certified copy of the foreign application specified in 35 U.S.C. 119(b) or PCT Rule 17 must, in any event, be filed before the patent is granted. If the claim for priority or the certified copy of the foreign application is filed after the date the issue fee is paid, it must be accompanied by the processing fee set forth in § 1.17(x), but the patent will not include the priority claim unless corrected by a certificate of correction under 35 U.S.C. 255 and § 1.323.

The prior U.S. application(s), including any prior International Application designating the U.S., identified above in item 17B, in turn itself claim(s) foreign priority(ies) as follows:

Country	Appln. No.	Filed
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The certified copy(ies) has (have)

☐ been filed on _____, in prior application _____ which was filed on _____

☐ is (are) attached.

WARNING: The certified copy of the priority application that may have been communicated to the PTO by the International Bureau may not be relied on without any need to file a certified copy of the priority application in the continuing application. This is so because the certified copy of the priority application communicated by the International Bureau is placed in a folder and is not assigned a U.S. serial number unless the national stage is entered. Such folders are disposed of if the national stage is not entered. Therefore, such certified copies may not be available if needed later in the prosecution of a continuing application. An alternative would be to physically remove the priority documents from the folders and transfer them to the continuing application. The resources required to request transfer, retrieve the folders, make suitable record notations, transfer the certified copies, enter and make a record of such copies in the Continuing Application are substantial. Accordingly, the priority documents in folders of international applications that have not entered the national stage may not be relied on. Notice of April 28, 1987 (1079 O.G. 32 to 46).

19. Maintenance of Co-pendency of Prior Application

NOTE: The PTO finds it useful if a copy of the petition filed in the prior application extending the term for response is filed with the papers constituting the filing of the continuation application. Notice of November 5, 1985 (1060 O.G. 27).

- A. ☐ Extension of time in prior application

(This item must be completed and the papers filed in the prior application, if the period set in the prior application has run.)

- ☐ A petition, fee and response extends the term in the pending prior application until _____.
- ☐ A copy of the petition filed in prior application is attached.

- B. ☐ Conditional Petition for Extension of Time in Prior Application
(complete this item, if previous item not applicable)

- ☐ A conditional petition for extension of time is being filed in the pending prior application.
- ☐ A copy of the conditional petition filed in the prior application is attached.

20. Further Inventorship Statement Where Benefit of Prior Application(s) Claimed

(complete applicable item (a), (b) and/or (c) below)

- a) ☒ This application discloses and claims only subject matter disclosed in the prior application whose particulars are set out above and the inventor(s) in this application are
- ☒ the same.
- ☐ less than those named in the prior application. It is requested that the following inventor(s) identified for the prior application be deleted:

(type name(s) of inventor(s) to be deleted)

- b) ☒ This application discloses and claims additional disclosure by and a new declaration or oath is being filed. With respect to the prior application, the inventor(s) in this application are
- ☒ the same.
- ☐ the following additional inventor(s) have been added:

(type name(s) of inventor(s) to be deleted)

- c) The inventorship for all the claims in this application are
- ☒ the same.
- ☐ not the same. An explanation, including the ownership of the various claims at the time the last claimed invention was made
- ☐ is submitted.
- ☐ will be submitted.

21. Abandonment of Prior Application *(if applicable)*

Please abandon the prior application at a time while the prior application is pending, or when the petition for extension of time or to revive in that application is granted, and when this application is granted a filing date, so as to make this application co-pending with said prior application.

NOTE: According to the Notice of May 13, 1983 ('103, TMOG 6-7), the filing of a continuation or continuation-in-part application is a proper response with respect to a petition for extension of time or a petition to revive and should include the express abandonment of the prior application conditioned upon the granting of the petition and the granting of a filing date to the continuing application.

22. Petition for Suspension of Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File an Amendment

WARNING: "The claims of a new application may be finally rejected in the first Office action in those situations where (A) the new application is a continuing application of, or a substitute for, an earlier application, and (8) all the claims of the new application (1) are drawn to the same invention claimed in the earlier application, and (2) would have been properly finally rejected on the grounds of art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the earlier application." M.P.E.P. § 706.07(b), 7th ed.

NOTE: Where it is possible that the claims on file will give rise to a first action final for this continuation application and for some reason an amendment cannot be filed promptly (e.g., experimental data is being gathered) it may be desirable to file a petition for suspension of prosecution for the time necessary.

(check the next item, if applicable)

- ☐ There is provided herewith a Petition To Suspend Prosecution for the Time Necessary to File An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently)

23. Small Entity (37 C.F.R. § 1.28(a))

- ☐ Applicant has established small entity status by the filing of a statement in parent application / on
- ☐ A copy of the statement previously filed is included.

WARNING: See 37 C.F.R. § 7.28(a).

WARNING: "Small entity status must not be established when the person or persons signing the . . . statement can unequivocally make the required self-certification." M.P.E.P. § 509.43, 7th ed. (emphasis added).

24. NOTIFICATION IN PARENT APPLICATION OF THIS FILING

- ☐ A notification of the filing of this
- (check one of the following)
- ☐ continuation
- ☐ continuation-in-part divisional
- ☐ is being filed in the parent application, from which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120.